

Approved ____

Interagency Human Trafficking Task Force
Meeting Minutes for Victim Services Subcommittee
Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Convened at 10:05 AM

Members present: Julie Dahlstrom, Stephanie DeCandia, Cherie Jimenez, Liam Lowney, Audrey Porter, Joe McKown, Katia Santiago-Taylor

Member absent: Tom King

AGO Staff Present: Nikki Antonucci

September Meeting Minutes Approved

Upon proper motion made and seconded, the Subcommittee voted to approve the September meeting minutes without changes.

Presentation of Survey of Massachusetts Victim Services and Recommendations

Members presented their completed questionnaires summarizing the description of the population served (adults, minors, labor, sex, female and male) and identification points, what agencies are currently providing services, existing resources that may be able to support survivors, existing models in other jurisdictions, and gaps in services and recommendations. Agencies included Kim's Project, Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, My Life My Choice, and Lutheran Social Services. A completed questionnaire submitted by Steven Procopio from JRI Health-Boston GLASS was also reviewed.

After an overview of all questionnaires several overarching recommendations emerged:

- Partnerships should be developed among providers working with all populations described, in particular resources should be shared among agencies working with minors and adults;
- A mutual understanding of the issues and resources available, as well as the definitions under the law of victim, trafficking and exploitation, should be further developed among all providers;
- It is crucial that providers receive appropriate funding, allocated statewide, in order to be able to effectively respond to referrals and provide services;
- Safe housing is a critical need for all populations; and
- Several comprehensive, long-term programs providing services specific to the identified populations would be ideal.

Presentation of Private and Public Funding Sources

Joe McKown from Strategic Grant Partners highlighted the fundamentals of successful fundraising in the private sector:

- Focus on obtaining funding from private resources because it is an untapped resource;
- A clear articulation of your mission is essential – what you do and for whom;
- Be able to demonstrate a link between service activities and the impact;
- It's okay to acknowledge that there is also transcendent value in services provided that can't be measured;
- A challenge to obtaining funding for complex issues such as for serving trafficking survivors is that there are misunderstandings of the issue – e.g., it may not be commonly understood that the majority of survivors will require long-term comprehensive services and their “success” exiting will be dependant on numerous factors; and
- It is critical to emphasize the importance of services and to quantify gaps in services through data collection and information sharing – create a story that will illustrate the problem on a macro and micro level.

Liam Lowney from MOVA presented on current sources of federal/state funding as well as private funding from foundations:

- The new law did create a trust fund where traffickers' forfeited assets can be deposited. This could help support and expand services however it does not currently have any funds in it. A recommendation should be made to legislators to create additional ways to generate funds e.g., John fines.
- MOVA will do an analysis of how other agencies and states obtain sufficient funding.

Preparation for Presentation to the Task Force:

We are scheduled to present at the next Task Force meeting re: housing and safe homes.

However, since the subcommittee has not yet spent focused time on these issues we will request to be put on the schedule for January or March.

Next Subcommittee Meeting

- We will discuss the housing issue.
- We will begin to draft an outline enumerating recommendations related to the subcommittee's assigned tenets including funding priorities.

Upon proper motion made and seconded, the Co-Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM

List of Documents and Exhibits Used by Subcommittee

Meeting Notice/Agenda

September Meeting Minutes

Surveys of Victim Services and Recommendations submitted by Members

PowerPoint Presentation provided by Joe McKown

Federal and Private Foundation Sources Memorandum provided by MOVA

Next meeting: November 13, 2012, 10:00 AM at Family Justice Center